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Mr. Stuart had received their medal, and, if there were precedent for it, he thought he should have it again. Mr. Stuart was a bold, enterprising man, full of sound judgment and great discretion, otherwise he could not have so succeeded. Australia was a very valuable country. The fact that it produced five or six millions sterling worth of wool showed its importance, but the production of wool would have its limits—beyond a certain degree from the equator the sheep could not thrive. Australia was excellent for the production of wool, and for gold, but the gold was diminishing, and, he must say, he agreed with those who preferred New Zealand to Australia for the purpose of colonisation.

The CHAIRMAN then congratulated the Meeting on the interesting nature of the papers read, and the discussions upon them. He pointed out the great progress which had already taken place in Australia, and trusted that their acquaintance with its vast territory would be followed by its occupation by a large population, the extension of civilization, and advance of the arts of peace.

The Meeting was then adjourned to Dec. 9th.

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*Third Meeting, Monday, December 9th, 1861.*

LORD ASHBURTON, PRESIDENT, in the Chair.

PRESENTATIONS.—*The Rev. Charles J. Armistead ; Lieut. Langham Rokeby, R.N. ; Don Ramon de Silva Ferro ; E. Brown Fitton ; Edward Lane ; J. Harrison Watson ; and James A. Youl, Esqrs., were presented upon their election.*

ELECTIONS.—*Lord Claude Hamilton ; Captain G. Towers Hilliard ; Sir Christopher Rawlinson ; the Rev. Edward J. Shepherd ; Douglas Henty ; Thomas Hood Hood ; Edward Lawrence ; Robert Low ; William Macpherson ; Henry Martin ; David Ricardo ; and C. Douglas Shepherd, Surg. R.N., Esqrs., were elected Fellows.*

EXHIBITIONS.—Logarithmic tables belonging to Mungo Park, accompanied by MS. calculations lately procured on the Niger, and presented by the Foreign Office. Several photographs of ‘Boobies,’—the original inhabitants of Fernando Po,—taken by two Spanish officers, and forwarded by Captain Bedingfeld, R.N., F.R.G.S., were also exhibited.

The PRESIDENT called attention to the remarkable care with which Mungo Park’s astronomical tables had been preserved by the Africans into whose hands they had fallen. The scraps of calculations and manuscript had been compared with a volume of Mungo Park’s MSS. in the possession of Mr. Murray, the publisher, and the handwriting had been identified.

The Papers read were—

1. *The British Settlements in Western Africa.* By Colonel LUKE SMYTH O’CONNOR, C.B., F.R.G.S., late Governor of the Gambia.

THIS was a short and slight sketch of the rise and progress of the Gambia, Sierra Leone, and Cape Coast settlements, accompanied by

many anecdotes illustrative of African character. As to the Gambia, which was a noble river, navigable to vessels of 300 tons for a distance of 300 miles from its mouth, little more was known of it beyond the falls of Baraconda than what travellers had told us two-and-a-half centuries ago. Neither did the author consider this to be wondered at, for the nature of the country, its climate, and especially the jealousy and suspicion of the natives, presented almost insuperable barriers to the advance of the white man. "Aye, aye, Sir," said an old chief, "thankee, thankee; your words are sweet and your presents good, but, God be praised, we do not want to learn the white man's knowledge. The cities, the people, the fields, flocks, herds, rivers, forests, are *now* all ours, but once let you get your hand into our nation and you will take the dust from under our feet."

Speaking of the unscrupulous desire to make money, so common to Africans, he said, a negro trader asked his master why he left his own good land and risked his life in Africa? The white man replied, "To make money." "Good," said the black trader; "you are a wise man; but suppose you die, then whom do you make money for?" "For my child," answered the white man. "Ah!" exclaimed the African, "why not sell your child and make money of him?"

The PRESIDENT said he had listened to the paper with great interest, but at the same time with much pain; for, while they all knew how large a part of the anarchy and misery just alluded to was caused by the misdeeds of our ancestors, it was not so obvious from Col. O'Connor's paper that our settlements on the W. African coast had much tended to mitigate the wrongs we had inflicted. These settlements had been in our power for many years; we had lost able men, good servants of the public, in maintaining them; we now wanted to learn what good had arisen from them. It was a question on which he sought information from travellers then in the room. He, the President, had served on a Committee of the House of Lords some years since, when the then Governor of Sierra Leone was under examination. He had asked him, "What is the condition of the Africans that are taken and set free in your colony?" and was answered, "They are orderly, well conducted people; they do all the work of the colony: we could not get on without them." Again, he (the President) asked, "You have schools, and very good schools: what is the state of the children turned out of those schools?" The Governor replied, "Those children do not work; they are vagabonds, and without the immigration of the liberated Africans we could not get on at all." He, the President, did not take upon himself to say this was a just statement of the case; he hoped it was not, and therefore sought testimony to the contrary.

Referring to Dr. Livingstone's endeavour to civilise Africans by first obtaining an influence over them before beginning to preach the truths of religion, the President quoted the advice given by Loyola's successor on the course to be pursued in converting back to Catholicism the then Protestant city of Bologna. He said, "We will send missionaries to Bologna, but they shall not say one word about religion. They shall begin first by attending the hospitals, by attending the sick, by attaining influence over them, and establishing their repute as good men. Then let them begin to preach their religion, and they will be listened to."

Finally, the President called upon Mr. Freeman, the lately appointed Governor of the new British settlement of Lagos, to address the meeting.

MR. FREEMAN said that hitherto he had never visited Western Africa, but that he had resided for some years in Northern Africa, and there in Tunis and Tripoli, and especially in Ghadames, had seen a great deal of the commerce of Central Africa. He could not but be aware of the great importance of Lagos, in offering a new opening to that commerce. Until lately by far the greater part of it had been carried across the Sahara, a distance of five or six months' journey; too long to be remunerative, unless combined with a trade in slaves. But the slave-trade being now abolished in Northern Africa, the traffic across the Sahara was rapidly diminishing, and the commerce of the Soudan was consequently seeking a new outlet in some part of the western coast. Lagos was eminently suited to be that outlet, owing to its neighbourhood to the mouths of the Niger, and means of overland access to the confluence of the Benue and Chad. Thence Kano, the chief emporium of Central Africa, might be reached in a fortnight, and both Sokoto and Timbuctu were accessible. He thoroughly agreed with the President on the importance of gaining an influence over the Africans before attempting to convert them, and he believed that by opening a trade from Lagos we should obtain that influence.

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2. *Recent African Explorations*;—*Proceedings of* (a) SPEKE, (b) PETHERICK, (c) LEJEAN, (d) PENNY, and (e) LIVINGSTONE.

(a) *Extracts from a Letter by Captain SPEKE to Lieut.-Col. RIGBY, H.B.M.'s Consul at Zanzibar, dated Khoko in Western Ugogo, 12th December, 1860.*

"WE are now scarcely knowing what to do. Before us is the desert of M'Gunda M'Kali, and beyond that again the country of Tura—all famished, and without a grain of food to sell us; yet these are not a quarter of the difficulties we have to contend against. Our Kirangozi and nearly all the porters have run away, and our Mozigos are lying on the ground. The rains too are very severe, worse even than an Indian monsoon. Our losses in the rough amount to nine mules, twenty-five slaves of the Sultan, and eighty Wanyamwesis, so you may imagine our dilemma. But we are not out of spirits. Grant is a very dear friend, and being a good sportsman we get through our days wonderfully. At this place alone I have killed two rhinoceroses and three buffaloes, and Grant, a little further back, killed a giraffe. In addition to these, we have killed numbers and many varieties of antelopes, zebras, pigs, and hyenas.

"We often think of you and the great service you have rendered to the expedition by giving us Baraka and the others of your crew; they are the life of the camp. As to Baraka, he is the 'father' of his race, and a general of great distinction among the serviles. I do not know what we should have done without him. Bombay, with all his honesty and kind fellow-feeling, has not half